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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22850 7590 04/27/2011
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.
1940 DUKE STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

VU, PHY ANH TRAN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2437

DATE MAILED: 04/27/2011

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/567,689

02/09/2006

Hiroyuki Kikkoji

278537US6PCT

2371

TITLE OF INVENTION: INFORMATION PROCESSING DEVICE AND COMMUNICATION METHOD

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	07/27/2011

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

22850 7590 04/27/2011

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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nonprovisional

NO

\$1510

\$300

\$0

\$1810

07/27/2011

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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VU, PHY ANH TRAN

2437

726-027000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,

1 _____

(2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

2 _____

3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

☐ Issue Fee

☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)

☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

☐ A check is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/567,689	02/09/2006	Hiroyuki Kikkoji	278537US6PCT	2371

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Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 496 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 496 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/567,689	KIKKOJI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PHY ANH VU	2437	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/7/2011.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9,16 and 17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

/PHY ANH VU/
Examiner, Art Unit 2437

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments on pages 4-7 in the in the Arguments/Remarks are persuasive.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's representative Brian Epstein on 4/7/2011 and 4/20/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Page 23 of the drawing has been deleted.

Claim 1, An information-processing apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving, in a ticket request, service ID data designating a service to be provided, together with user ID data and apparatus ID data, from an external apparatus, and for receiving a cancellation request including the user ID data and the apparatus ID data from the external apparatus;

storage means for storing the user ID data and the service ID data, in an association with the apparatus ID data, which identifies the external apparatus and which has been registered;

deleting means for deleting, from the storage means, the apparatus ID data after deleting, from the storage means, the service ID data, when the receiving means receives, from the external apparatus, the cancellation request requesting a deletion of the apparatus ID data, and for producing a result of an authentication based on the user ID data and the apparatus ID data upon a reception of the ticket request; and

transmitting means for transmitting a ticket to the external apparatus, in response to the reception of the ticket request, based on the result of the authentication based on the user ID data and the apparatus ID data, for transmitting a request corresponding to the service ID data to a different external apparatus after the service ID data is deleted from the storage means and before the apparatus ID data is deleted from the storage means, and for transmitting, to the external apparatus, deletion-complete information indicating that the deleting means has finished deleting the apparatus ID data upon the deletion.

Claim 3, An information-processing system, comprising:

an information-processing apparatus having,

receiving means for receiving, in a ticket request from an external apparatus, service ID data designating a service to be provided, together with user ID data and apparatus ID data identifying the external apparatus, and for

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receiving a cancellation request including the user ID data and the apparatus ID data from the external apparatus,

storage means for storing the user ID data, the apparatus ID data, and the service ID data, in an association with one another,

authentication means for performing an authenticating process in accordance with the user ID data and the apparatus ID data to produce an authentication result upon a reception of the ticket request,

deleting means for deleting, from the storage means, the apparatus ID data after deleting, from the storage means, the service ID data, when the receiving means receives, from the external apparatus, the cancellation request requesting a deletion of the apparatus ID data, and

transmitting means for transmitting a ticket to the external apparatus, in response to the reception of the ticket request, based on the authentication result in accordance with the user ID data and the apparatus ID data, for transmitting a request corresponding to the service ID data to a different external apparatus after the service ID data is deleted from the storage means and before the apparatus ID data is deleted from the storage means, and for transmitting deletion-complete information indicating that the deleting means has finished deleting the apparatus ID data upon the deletion, the external apparatus having,

data-transmitting means for transmitting, in the ticket request, the user ID data, the apparatus ID data and the service ID data to the information-processing apparatus,

ID data storage means for storing the apparatus ID data,

ID data deleting means for deleting the apparatus ID data stored in the ID data storage means,

deletion-request transmitting means for transmitting the cancellation request requesting the deletion, and

completion-information receiving means for receiving the deletion-complete information.

Claim 5, A communication method for use in an information-processing apparatus, the communication method comprising:

receiving, in a ticket request from an external apparatus, service ID data designating a service to be provided, together with user ID data and apparatus ID data identifying the external apparatus;

storing, in the information-processing apparatus, the user ID data, the apparatus ID data, and the service ID data, in an association with one another;

authenticating, upon the receiving, the user ID data and the apparatus ID data to produce an authentication result;

transmitting a ticket to the external apparatus, in response to the receiving, based on the authentication result based on the user ID data and the apparatus ID data;

receiving a cancellation request including the user ID data and the apparatus ID data from the external apparatus;

deleting, from the information-processing apparatus, with a processor of the information-processing apparatus, the apparatus ID data after deleting, from the information-processing apparatus, the service ID data, upon the receiving the cancellation request requesting a deletion of the apparatus ID data;

transmitting a request corresponding to the service ID data to a different external apparatus after the service ID data is deleted from the information-processing apparatus and before the apparatus ID data is deleted from the information-processing apparatus;
and

transmitting, to the external apparatus, upon the deleting, deletion-complete information indicating that the apparatus ID data has been deleted.

Claim 6, A computer-readable non-transitory medium including a communication program, wherein the communication program, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform a method comprising:

receiving, in a ticket request from an external apparatus, service ID data designating a service to be provided, together with user ID data and apparatus ID data identifying the external apparatus;

storing, in the computer, the user ID data, the apparatus ID data, and the service ID data, in an association with one another;

authenticating, upon the receiving, the user ID data and the apparatus ID data to produce an authentication result;

transmitting a ticket to the external apparatus, in response to the receiving, based on the authentication result based on the user ID data and the apparatus ID data;

receiving a cancellation request including the user ID data and the apparatus ID data from the external apparatus;

deleting, from the computer, the apparatus ID data after deleting, from the computer, the service ID data, upon the receiving the cancellation request requesting a deletion of the apparatus ID data;

transmitting a request corresponding to the service ID data to a different external apparatus after the service ID data is deleted from the computer and before the apparatus ID data is deleted from the computer; and

transmitting, to the external apparatus, upon the deleting, deletion-complete information indicating that the apparatus ID data has been deleted.

Claim 7, An information-processing apparatus, comprising:

an interface configured to receive, in a ticket request, service ID data designating a service to be provided, together with user ID data and apparatus ID data, from an external apparatus, and to receive a cancellation request including the user ID data and the apparatus ID data from the external apparatus;

a memory configured to store the user ID data and the service ID data, in an association with the apparatus ID data, which identifies the external apparatus and which has been registered;

a processor configured to produce a result of an authentication based on the user ID data and the apparatus ID data upon a reception of the ticket request, and to delete, from the memory, the apparatus ID data after deleting, from the memory, the service ID data, when the interface receives, from the external apparatus, the cancellation request requesting a deletion of the apparatus ID data, wherein the interface is configured to transmit a ticket to the external apparatus, in response to the reception of the ticket request, based on the result of the authentication based on the user ID data and the apparatus ID data, to transmit a request corresponding to the service ID data to a different external apparatus after the service ID data is deleted from the memory and before the apparatus ID data is deleted from the memory, and to transmit, to the external apparatus, upon the deletion, deletion-complete information indicating that the processor has finished deleting the apparatus ID data.

Claim 8 has been cancelled.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to an apparatus, system, method, and computer-readable, non-transitory medium for completely deleting information of a user when the user cancels service.

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The closest prior art, as previously recited, Kuriya et al. (US 200110056404 A1), Nakada et al. (US 2002/0157104), Crane et al. (US Patent 6,510,236), Natsuno et al (US 2002/0194474 A1), Flanagan et al. (US 6,128,661), Takeuchi (US 2003/0134615 A1), Halen et al. (WO 03/028283), and Kunigita (US 2003/0078723) are also generally directed to various aspects of deleting user information. However, none of Kuriya, Nakada, Crane, Natsuno, Flanagan, Takeuchi, Halen, and Kunigita discloses or suggests alone or in combination, the particular combination of steps or elements as recited in the independent claims 1, 3, and 5-7. For example, none of the cited prior art teaches or suggests the steps of receiving, in a ticket request, service ID data designating a service to be provided, together with user ID data and apparatus ID data, from an external apparatus, and for receiving a cancellation request including the user ID data and the apparatus ID data from the external apparatus, storing in the storage means the user ID data and the service ID data in an association with the apparatus ID data, deleting from the storage means, the apparatus ID data after deleting, from the storage means, the service ID data, when receiving from the external apparatus, the cancellation request requesting a deletion of the apparatus ID data, and for producing a result of an authentication based on the user ID data and the apparatus ID data upon a reception of the ticket request, transmitting a ticket to the external apparatus in response to the reception of the ticket request, based on the result of the authentication based on the user ID data and the apparatus ID data, transmitting a request corresponding to the service ID data to a different external apparatus after the service ID data is deleted from the storage means and before the apparatus ID data is deleted

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from the storage means, and finally transmitting to the external apparatus, deletion-complete information indicating that the deleting means has finished deleting the apparatus ID data upon the deletion.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Therefore claims 1-7, 9, and 16-17 are allowable over the cited prior art.

Claim 8 is cancelled.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHY ANH VU whose telephone number is (571)270-7317. The examiner can normally be reached on Wed 7:30-11:30, TH-F 8-4:30 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eleni Shiferaw can be reached on 571-272-3867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/PHY ANH VU/

Examiner, Art Unit 2437

/Eleni A Shiferaw/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2437